

Message Text

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O P 161348Z SEP 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 220016

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR XF US

SUBJECT: EMBASSY TEL AVIV RENTAL OF APARTMENT IN JERUSALEM

REF: CAIRO 9102 NOTAL; STATE 216752 NOTAL

1. EMBASSY TEL AVIV WITH DEPARTMENT'S APPROVAL LEASED
SIMPLE APARTMENT IN WEST JERUSALEM HOTEL LAST MONTH
FOR CONVENIENCE OF THE MANY EMBOFFS, AND NOT JUST
AMBASSADOR, WHO HAVE APPOINTMENTS IN JERUSALEM VERY EARLY
OR VERY LATE IN DAY. ARRANGEMENT IS ONLY AN ECONOMY
MEASURE. POSTS WHEN HANDLING QUERIES SHOULD OBVIOUSLY
DOWNPLAY MATTER AND COMBAT ANY SUGGESTION APARTMENT IS
EXTENSION OF AMBASSADORIAL RESIDENCE. YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT
EMBASSIES IN TEL AVIV OF SEVERAL OTHER NATIONS (VIZ SWEDEN)
HAVE HAD THE SAME ARRANGEMENT FOR SOME TIME.

2. YOU MAY ALSO POINT OUT THAT FACT OF MATTER IS THAT
ALTHOUGH ISRAELI DEFENSE MINISTRY, TRADE UNION HEADQUARTERS,
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AND BANKING CENTER ARE IN TEL AVIV, ENTIRE BALANCE OF

GOVERNMENT PLUS PARLIAMENT ARE IN WEST JERUSALEM. REPRESENTATIVES IN ISRAEL OF OTHER COUNTRIES MUST AND DO HAVE

CONSTANT, EXTENSIVE CONTACT WITH ISRAELI OFFICIALS IN WEST JERUSALEM. BECAUSE ROAD BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND TEL AVIV IS DANGEROUS, ESPECIALLY AFTER DARK, FOREIGN DIPLOMATS STATIONED IN TEL AVIV REPEATEDLY OVERNIGHT IN JERUSALEM HOTELS. ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ARRANGEMENT WE HAVE MADE FOR CONVENIENCE OF OUR PERSONNEL AND PRE-EXISTING SITUATION IS THAT OUR EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV WILL SAVE MONEY BY PAYING LEASE INSTEAD OF REPEATED REIMBURSEMENTS TO OUR PERSONNEL AT PRIME HOTEL ROOM RATES.

3. FOR CAIRO. YOU SHOULD DRAW ON ABOVE IN ANSWERING EGYPTIAN INQUIRY.

4. FOR JIDDA. IF SAUDIS SHOULD HEAR OF THIS, YOUR COMMENT SHOULD NOTE THAT APARTMENT IS IN A HOTEL AND THAT ARRANGEMENT MERELY PUTS RENTAL ON A MONTHLY BASIS AS OPPOSED TO PREVIOUS DAILY BASIS.

5. FOR TEL AVIV. PLEASE ADVISE WHICH TEL AVIV EMBASSIES BESIDES SWEDISH HAVE SIMILAR ARRANGEMENT. SISCO

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